



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1635 | FAX (517) 373.3300

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/

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Contact: Jeff Cobb
517-373-1635

Senate committee approves bill to keep sexually explicit video games away from children

LANSING – The Senate Judiciary Committee on Tuesday approved a bill to keep sexually explicit video games out of the hands of children, announced Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom, R-Norton Shores.

“We have a responsibility to do all we can to help protect our children from the graphic images in these video games,” said Van Woerkom, sponsor of the bill. “This bill accomplishes that while remaining sensitive to constitutional issues, such as free speech.”

Senate Bill 463 would make sexually explicit video games subject to the same restrictions as books, movies, magazines and other materials with such content.

A violation would be a felony punishable by up to two years’ imprisonment and a fine of up to \$10,000. The bill would take effect December 1, 2005.

The Entertainment Software Association testified in support of the bill at Tuesday’s hearing, stating it would not violate the First Amendment.

The bill now goes before the full Senate.

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